

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to information in a distributed data processing system having:

a server for storing said information, wherein said server further comprises a logging tool for creating a log file, and a client computer comprising an application program for controlling a software agent, wherein said software agent requests said information from said server, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a software agent;

in response to said identifying step, storing all requests from said identified software agent in said log file;

in response to said storing step, analysing said log file;

in response to said analysing step, monitoring behaviour of said identified software agent, and in response to said monitoring step, invoking at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules to control said behaviour of said identified software agent, wherein said distributed data processing system further comprises an application server.

2. (Currently Amended) A [[The] method ~~according to claim 1~~ of controlling access to information in a distributed data processing system having:

a server for storing said information, wherein said server further comprises a logging tool for creating a log file, and a client computer comprising an application program for controlling a software agent, wherein said software agent requests said information from said server, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a software agent;

in response to said identifying step, storing all requests from said identified software agent in said log file;

in response to said storing step, analysing said log file;

in response to said analysing step, monitoring behaviour of said identified software agent, and in response to said monitoring step, invoking at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules to control said behaviour of said identified software agent, wherein

said information is represented within any number of a plurality of web pages, each of said any number of a plurality of web pages comprising a non-visible link.

3. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein a software agent requests one of a plurality of web pages, said identifying step further comprises the steps of:

dynamically generating a first unique identifier;

dynamically inserting said first unique identifier into a non-visible link associated with said one of a plurality of web pages, and determining whether said one of a plurality of web pages is associated with further of a plurality of web pages.

4. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein:

upon said determining step being successful, said first identifier is dynamically inserted into further non-visible links.

5. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 3, wherein upon said determining step not being successful, said identifying step further comprises the steps of:

sending said one of a plurality of web pages to said identified software agent;

in response to said sending step, requesting, from said server by said identified software agent, any number of a plurality of links associated with said one of a plurality of web pages;

in response to said requesting step, extracting, by said identified software agent, said any number of a plurality of links;

in response to said extracting step, passing, by said identified software agent, said any number of a plurality of links to said client application program, and in response to said passing step, determining, by said client application program, which of said any number of a plurality of links to display.

6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein said any number of a plurality of links is displayed within a web browsing session running on said client computer.

7. (Currently Amended) A [[The] method according to claim 1 of controlling access to information in a distributed data processing system having:

a server for storing said information, wherein said server further comprises a logging tool for creating a log file, and a client computer comprising an application program for controlling a software agent, wherein said software agent requests said information from said server, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a software agent;

in response to said identifying step, storing all requests from said identified software agent in said log file;

in response to said storing step, analysing said log file;

in response to said analysing step, monitoring behaviour of said identified software agent, and in response to said monitoring step, invoking at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules to control said behaviour of said identified software agent, wherein

said analysing step further comprises the step of:

identifying a first value associated with said any number of a plurality of web pages and a second value associated with said further of a plurality of web pages.

8. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said monitoring step further comprises the steps of:

utilising said first and second values to generate a third value, wherein said third value is associated with said identified software agent, and utilising said third value and a fourth value associated with said all requests, to associate said first identifier and said identified software agent with a fifth value, wherein said fifth value is associated with a probability.

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein upon said third value being not more than or equal to a first pre-determined threshold, said log file is analysed further.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 8, wherein upon said fourth value being not more than or equal to a second pre-determined threshold, said log file is analysed further.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said identified software agent is associated with a profile, said profile comprising any number of a plurality of data fields unique to said identified software agent, wherein said invoking step further comprises the steps of:

associating said any number of a plurality of data fields with said at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules;

determining whether a pre-defined response needs to be activated, and in response to a successful determining step, activating said pre-defined response.

12. (Original) The method according to claim 11, wherein said log file further stores an address associated with a software agent and a name associated with said software agent.

13. (Original) The method according to claim 12, wherein at least one of said any number of a plurality of data fields is extracted from said log file.

14. (Original) The method according to claim 2, wherein a second unique identifier is generated and further inserted into a non-visible link.

Claims 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) A [[The] method according to claim 1 of controlling access to information in a distributed data processing system having:

a server for storing said information, wherein said server further comprises a logging tool for creating a log file, and a client computer comprising an application program for controlling a software agent, wherein said software agent requests said information from said server, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a software agent;

in response to said identifying step, storing all requests from said identified software agent in said log file;

in response to said storing step, analysing said log file;

in response to said analysing step, monitoring behaviour of said identified software agent, and in response to said monitoring step, invoking at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules to control said behaviour of said identified software agent, wherein

said at least one of a plurality of pre-defined rules controls a plurality of thread priorities associated with said server, wherein

at least one of a plurality of threads is associated with a software agent.

Claims 17-34 (Cancelled)